

10 November 1955




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*Basic 3*

It would be disingenuous on my part to deny that I entered the course completed today with a considerable degree of dubiety as to its value to me. I am happy to add immediately that I was promptly disabused of this idea, and my only regret at this point is that the course could not have been longer.

The value of the course to one newly entered on duty with this organization cannot be overestimated in clarifying both the organizational structure and the responsibilities of component units. Most noteworthy, however, was the exceedingly competent manner in which your staff members went beyond the bare bones of the charts and by vivid examples and skillful cross-examination in the various conferences brought life and meaning to what could so easily have remained mere boxes on paper.

Despite my certainty that I am only carrying coals to  I cannot omit mention of the memorable guest lecture by the scintillating   May his tribe increase!

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The two exhibits were most helpful; and the speed with which they were set up and dismantled was nothing less than phenomenal.

I was especially pleased with the clear recognition of the fact that every American citizen living abroad is in reality an ambassador of the United States and should be well grounded in the principles upon which this country was founded.

The exceptionally high level of professional competence displayed by the instructors who carried the heaviest burden in the second phase of the course was particularly noteworthy to one who had covered somewhat similar ground for military groups some five or six years ago. Frankly, I was amazed that they were able to resist the inevitable temptation to seek the lowest common denominator and pitch their lectures at kindergarten level. Whether this policy is imposed from above, or reflects their personal positions, they are to be congratulated upon the success they achieved in stimulating every person with whom I have had contact during the course to a resolve to enlarge his own knowledge in this field, whatever its previous breadth or limitation.

Above all, may I take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to you and to every member of your staff for your most friendly and helpful attitude both on and off the lecture platform during a most enjoyable and thought-provoking three weeks.



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